

Message Text

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PAGE 01 NEW DE 05654 120735Z
ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI
TO USDA WASHDC PRIORITY
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UNCLAS NEW DELHI 5654

FOR SECRETARY BERGLAND FROM THE AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: OVIP (BADAL, PARKASH SINGH), IN
SUBJECT: VISIT OF PUNJAB CHIEF MINISTER

1. MR. PARKASH SINGH BADAL, CHIEF MINISTER (ROUGHLY EQUIVALENT TO A US STATE GOVERNOR) OF THE PUNJAB, PLANS TO VISIT THE US APRIL 22-30. HE WILL BE IN WASHINGTON APRIL 28-29. AS YOU MAY KNOW, THE PUNJAB IS INDIA'S WEALTHIEST STATE AND ONE OF ITS MOST PROGRESSIVE AGRICULTURAL AREAS; APPROPRIATELY, BADAL IS HIMSELF A FARMER FROM A FARMING FAMILY. A FORMER MINISTER FOR AGRICULTURE AND IRRIGATION IN THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, HE HAS 30 YEARS EXPERIENCE AS A POLITICIAN, ALTHOUGH, AT 52, HE IS CONSIDERED YOUNG AS INDIAN POLITICIANS GO. I HAVE FOUND HIM HELPFUL, WELL-INFORMED AND WELL-DISPOSED TOWARD THE US.

2. BADAL'S VISIT TO THE US IS NOT GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED. HE HAS, HOWEVER, ASKED ME TO HELP HIM SEE A BIT OF AGRICULTURAL AMERICA, AN EXPEDITION WHICH YOUR DEPARTMENT'S FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL SERVICE HAS KINDLY AGREED TO ARRANGE. IN ADDITION TO THE FARMS AND RESEARCH CENTERS, I THINK BADAL WOULD APPRECIATE THE OPPORTUNITY TO MEET YOU, TO GAIN A BETTER UNDERSTANDING
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OF THE US GOVERNMENT'S INVOLVEMENT IN AGRICULTURE AND THE CONSTRAINTS UNDER WHICH US AGRICULTURAL POLICY-MAKERS LABOR. IF YOU COULD SPARE A FEW MINUTES, I THINK YOU WOULD FIND THAT BADAL HAS VALUABLE INSIGHTS INTO INDIAN AGRICULTURE AND ITS ADMINISTRATION, SUBJECTS CLOSELY FOLLOWED IN YOUR DEPARTMENT AS WELL AS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

3. YOUR MEETING BADAL WOULD VERY MUCH SOLIDIFY OUR
MISSION'S RELATIONS WITH THIS KEY CONTACT, AND I WOULD
PERSONALLY BE GRATEFUL FOR WHATEVER TIME YOU ARE ABLE
TO SPEND WITH HIM. BEST REGARDS.
GOHEEN

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